

## New Main Gate and DRK Memorial Dedicated

By Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – In a ceremony Dec. 16, 2008, the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field, opened a new main gate and dedicated a memorial to the Medal of Honor recipient the base is named after.

Oregon's senior United States Senator Ron Wyden, and Col. James Miller, 173rd Fighter Wing commander unveiled the new entrance marker which signaled the completion of the entire project.

During the ceremony, Wyden honored the sacrifices of Medal of Honor recipient, Lt. David R. Kingsley.

"I think it is especially fitting that we honor David Kingsley today, he is a native son of Oregon who made the ultimate sacrifice," Wyden said.

Wyden also said he supports expanding the mission of the 173rd Fighter Wing.

"I want you to know on my watch as long as I have the honor to represent you in the United States Senate we are going to expand the mission here at Kingsley. We are looking forward to the future."

The 173rd Civil Engineers designed the memorial. The memorial displays a section of Lt. Kingsley's B-17 bomber which was recovered in Bulgaria, where the plane was shot down during World War II.

In 2006, Bulgarian (See **DEDICATION** Page 4)



USAF photo by Master Sgt. Jerry Bynum

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) speaks during a dedication ceremony for the David R. Kingsley memorial and the newly constructed main gate.



USAF photo by Master Sgt. Jerry Bynum

Col. James C. Miller, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander and Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) view a memorial dedicated to David R. Kingsley.



USAF photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shirar

Members of the 173rd Fighter Wing, Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, and Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) watch as the new sign marking the entrance into Kingsley Field is revealed.

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# EDITORIAL

## Afghanistan: Inside the Wire

By Capt. Tim Bruner, 173rd Civil Engineering Squadron, Photos provided by Capt. Tim Bruner

There are many reports on the activities that happen on the front lines of any combat zone, as there should be. Those brave men are at the tip of the spear, putting their lives on the line every day. There is another story though, that often goes untold about the troops and Airmen supporting the fight at bases across Afghanistan and Iraq. We have had the unique experience of supporting the fight as Air Force engineers on an Army base.

We are known as a Staff Augmentation Team, or "S-Team". Our primary mission is to provide highly technical engineering staff in the areas of public works, design, project management, planning, and command and control. Our team is made up of all Air National Guardsmen. There are currently three Air Guard S-Teams deployed to Afghanistan consisting of seven members. We are all located at Army Forward Operating Bases (FOB). On the FOB, we are known as the Facility Engineer Team (FET). Aside from me, our team is from the 240th Civil Engineering Flight (CEF) out of Buckley AFB, Colorado. We

are stationed at FOB Fenty near Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

We are performing an In-lieu of (ILO) mission for the Army, now called a JET (Joint Expeditionary Tasking) mission. Basically, we are a service outside the Army performing an Army mission. We are all one team in one fight!

We are not alone in our JET mission. Air Force Civil Engineers are staying busy supporting our Army brethren. In fact, Civil Engineering (CE) is one of the most deployed career fields in the Air Force. Here's a breakdown of CE and Air Guard deployments:

- 23% of the 35,000 AF troops currently deployed are Guard
- 43% of all AF CE deployments are JET, while 79% of those are officer positions
- CE is the third most stressed career field for AF Officers
- 4 of the 5 most stressed enlisted Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC) are CE

Our primary assignment is project management. If we were at a standard AF CE Squadron, the FET would be similar to the engineering flight. Our primary mission is planning, programming, design, and construction of facility and infrastructure projects. Our team is made up of me

(See **TEAM** Page 10)



## Air Force Extends Basic Military Training

By Mike Joseph, 37th Training Wing Public Affairs

11/4/2008 - LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas-- The first group of Air Force recruits to experience expanded basic military training arrived here Nov. 4.

These new recruits are the first to face the challenges of an additional 14 days of training from 6.5 to 8.5 weeks. The added time will be used to enhance and reinforce BMT's current war skills training.

"I'm excited about it," said Col. Edward Westermann, 737th Training Group commander. "I think our MTIs (military training instructors) are excited about it. We get

to be a part of that historic transformation. This is something that 20 years from now, when we're no longer in uniform, we can talk about how we played a part in that change at BMT."

The time expansion in BMT was approved by the Air Force in early 2006, and replaces a program that has been in place since the 1960s, although adding two weeks was a consideration in the mid-1970s before being set aside by funding issues.

See **BMT** Page7)



# Commander's Corner



By Col. James C. Miller, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander

Let me first say, WOW! What a whirlwind 2008 was and I can't imagine 2009 being any different. You all performed to the highest expectations and once again proved why the 173d Fighter Wing is the best at what we do; train F-15 students and support our State and Nation in peacetime and in war.

From deploying overseas on a training mission to Australia or deploying for real world contingency operations, you have accomplished your mission with pride and enthusiasm. You have received endless dignitaries and showcased your professionalism at every opportunity. You had more than 20,000 visitors for Klamath Airshow 2008 and although it was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, you can pat yourselves on the back, as we know this airshow would have never happened without the volunteers and sweat equity from the 173d Fighter Wing.

On behalf of all your leadership, THANK YOU for a successful 2008 and we look forward to an even more successful 2009. Although 2009 will hold its own challenges, we are 100 percent positive that each and every one of you will rise to these unique occasions and that you confront and use those opportunities as one more chance to excel!

With the new calendar year already in full press we thought it was important to publish our new wing goals and why we have selected these and how we might measure them.

## Goal #1

### - Train the best F-15 pilots in the world

- Train 28 Basic Course Equivalent F-15 pilots to meet the demands of the Combat Air Force
- Execute a 5,000 flying hour program with zero mishaps

This first goal is fairly significant in the fact that this is our bread and butter. It is what we are here for to accomplish our Federal mission. As you all are aware, we have the reputation of performing this mission better than any other F-15 unit in Air Education Training Command (AETC) as evidenced by our 2002 and 2006 AETC Operational Readiness Inspections and the multitude of AETC/ANG wide individual and unit awards. This goal will also be very challenging as we execute SENTRY DISPLACEMENT and actually reduce our

planned sortie rate from a 10 turn 8 to an 8 turn 6. As we work out of a strange field, it becomes even more challenging to keep mishaps at zero. Our challenge here is to prevent all ground and air mishaps and can only happen if we keep our heads in the game and look after each other through the entire year.



## Goal #2

### - Successfully deploy and execute the training mission at Gowen Field, Idaho during SENTRY DISPLACEMENT

This goal is going to be a significant challenge in both execution and in keeping morale high. It is only through the dedication and professionalism of all of our members that we will successfully accomplish this goal. We understand the strain this may put on our families and are preparing to help cope with these issues as well as other contingencies. It will take an entire Team Kingsley effort to successfully accomplish this goal and as we get deeper into the deployment changes may have to be made in order to keep sight of why we are here and what we need to accomplish.

## Goal #3

### - Develop a better method of communication with our Traditional Guardsmen

- Develop quality training plans to ensure they are ready to execute their mission
- All Airmen will be properly trained and equipped to perform their mission

It was recently brought to our attention in an Air Force Smart Operations (AFSO) 21 event that we are (See GOALS Page 5)

# Chief of the National Guard Bureau Tours Kingsley

By Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Lieutenant General H Steven Blum who transitioned from the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the Deputy Commander at U.S. Northern Command toured the 173rd Fighter Wing and met with base and city leadership during a visit Dec. 10 & 11, 2008.

"It's not often we have the first National Guard officer to serve as a Deputy Combatant Commander at

***"I appreciate your hospitality but more importantly the mission that your Airmen execute everyday."***

**-Lt. Gen. Blum**

United States Northern Command out here to Kingsley Field, so we are very fortunate," said Maj. Gen. Ray-

mond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon. "He's been instrumental in bringing the Guard new recognition and status and that's one reason why he was chosen for the [NORTH-COM] position."

It's an appointment that charts new ground for a National Guard officer.

"In January, Steve [Blum] will become the first Guard officer to become a deputy combatant commander when he assumes his new post at Northern Command – an organization he knows well, having previously served as NORTHCOM's chief of staff," Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates said in an award ceremony for Blum, Nov. 17, 2008. "I should note that one of my motivations in recommending his nomination was to position a senior Guard officer to potentially head a combatant command."

Colonel James Miller, 173rd



USAF photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shirar

Lt. General Steven Blum tours the newly constructed David R. Kingsley Memorial during his visit to Kingsley Field Dec. 10, 2008.

Fighter Wing Commander, and other senior leadership gave Blum a tour (See **CHIEF** Page 12)

(**DEDICATION**, continued from page 1)

officials returned a piece of the aircraft to Kingsley Field and today that piece is the central focus of the me-

morial. As Guardsmen and visitors enter and exit the base they will see the memorial, which sits just inside the new main gate.

The memorial features benches and bronze plaques commemorating the history of Kingsley Field, and serves as a sister memorial to one constructed in Bulgaria in 2005.

This one-year project provides the base with a new road, Kingsley Way, a guard house, a new motorized front gate, lighting, traffic control bollards, sidewalks, landscaping, and state-of-the-art security system.

"This shift will alleviate congestion on

Airport Way during our peak traffic hours, which can cause backed up traffic on to Joe Wright Road," said Miller. "Additionally the gate adds heightened security for our base personnel."

The new gate is open 24 hours daily and it is located at the far west side of the base off Airport Way.

The gate previously used is now closed.

The new entrance is the first phase of a three phase project. Phase two and three will include the construction of an \$18 million joint Armed Forces Readiness Center. This facility will house the Air National Guard, 173rd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron, and the Army National Guard, C Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry. Phases two and three are yet to be funded and scheduled.



USAF photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shirar

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), members of the 173rd Fighter Wing and the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, cut the ribbon to the new entrance into Kingsley Field during the dedication ceremony



(GOALS, continued from page 3)

lacking in the communication arena with our drill status guardsmen. We have taken steps to remedy this and time will only tell in how successful we are at changing our communications. As we deploy to Idaho, we must keep in the forefront our responsibility to keep all our guardsmen informed, trained and equipped to perform whatever task is presented. If your shop is deployed and you have a DSG attending drill at home station then we must ensure they have a quality training plan and expectations on what is expected so we are adding value to our service and not just putting in time.

#### **Goal #4**

- **Energize the informal as well as the formal performance feedback programs**
  - **Mentor those you supervise; learn from those who supervise you**
  - **Invest quality time in furthering the careers of your subordinates**

As guard members we have the tendency to get complacent with those we supervise either because we become very comfortable with each other based on the years we have worked together or that we haven't been mentored in the past on the importance and process of performance feedbacks. We think it is imperative to professional growth and mission enhancement to instill a culture that provides for honest and constructive feedback.

#### **Goal #5**

- **Improve the overall base fitness pass rate from 84% to 90%**
  - **Airmen will be physically, mentally and spiritually ready for deployment**

Our profession demands that we are fit to fight. It has been several years since the USAF and ANG have instituted new fitness standards and it is incumbent upon us to meet these standards. It is a mandatory requirement as part of your military position to meet these standards. With the rigorous schedules that we have, we must find the time to improve our mental and physical health so we can accomplish the mission at the home front as well as any contingencies we may be asked to fulfill around the globe.

#### **Goal #6**

- **Team Kingsley is more than a logo. Take care of the mission; take care of your people**
  - **Embrace diversity, a team is more powerful**

**than an assembly of individuals**

- **Believe in diversity and enforce the zero tolerance policy to discrimination**

During a recent climate survey, it was noted that we still have issues here at Kingsley Field with prejudice and discrimination. This is unacceptable and won't be tolerated. We must embrace the fact that this country was built on the backs of many different cultures and unique individuals. Our Air Force reflects the diversity of our country and as such, so should we reflect the diversity of our community.

#### **Goal #7**

- **Support any and all state emergency response missions if called upon**
  - **Maintain full Quick Reaction Force requirements to include training, personnel and equipment**

We have several missions and one of those is to support our communities as guardsmen. With the increased role that the Adjutant General has assumed with emergency management he has tasked the Oregon National Guard with increased response capabilities. We have been tasked to increase our area of responsibility to include not only Klamath and Lake Counties, but also Curry, Josephine and Jackson Counties while the 41st Brigade is deployed to Iraq. While this is something we embrace with enthusiasm, it is a departure from what we have been traditionally tasked to support. This will take everyone's effort if we are called upon to offer military support to civilian authorities and continue our federal mission. We are confident that Kingsley Field personnel are up to the challenge.

As your commander, I look forward to the year ahead and am constantly impressed with the work that you accomplish and the attitudes you display toward your profession and mission. Thank you again for a successful 2008 and let's keep focused on our goals set forth for 2009 and as always, please keep it safe at work and play and remember our responsibilities to be good wingmen throughout the year.



# January Focus: Trust

The Nation places a sacred trust in its Airmen, each of us is deeply responsible to maintain accountability in executing all we do – from deploying in combat to executing our day-to-day missions.

We maintain trust by every Airman adhering to the “Airman Trust Factors” of Character: Personal growth in development of integrity to principles—what an Airman is; Competence: Knowledge, skills, abilities - what an Airman executes; and Credibility: Airman’s authentic nature in integrity, intentions, capabilities, and final effects.

As leaders, we must nurture trust in our professional and personal lives. We must be consistent in our actions.

## “Actions of High Trust Leaders”

- Speak Truth to Power
- Establish Clear Expectations
- Deliver on Your Promise
- Challenge the Status Quo
- Demonstrate Character
- Listen First
- Passion for the Mission
- Be Respectful
- Be Visible
- Be Accessible
- Be Authentic

To continue to dominate as the world’s most dominant air, space and cyberspace force, the ANG part of a Total Force that is expected to maintain the highest level of integrity. The American people entrust us with their safety, security and way of life – for this we are accountable. This trust is not given; it is earned through the great pride, professionalism and attention to detail we display as we live out the actions of high trust leaders!



## Flywheel Challenge:

Ask yourself: “*What did I do today to push on the flywheel?*”

- \* Do you exercise the proven action of high trust leaders?
- \* Are you consistently accountable; not only for your actions, but the actions of your subordinates?
- \* Integrity is the trusting, unbreakable bond that unifies leaders and Airmen. How do you create a culture of conscience?
- \* Respect others; look out for your Wingman/ subordinates, a failure for one is a failure for all!
- \* Do you exercise the proven action of high trust leaders?

# February Focus: Respect

We must all be committed to an environment of mutual respect that allows every member of the Air National Guard team to achieve his or her greatest potential. This new diversity presents both challenges and opportunities to individuals and to the organizations of which they are a part.

Benefits include a broader talent pool and the opportunity for individuals to more fully develop their potential. At the same time, however, new perspectives on creativity, innovation, and performance can be perceived as intrusive and lead to tension, misunderstanding, and even hostility between old and new, creating problems of coordination and cohesion for diverse organizations.

It is imperative that we, as leaders, work out the dif-

ficulties generated by diversity and reap the rewards. Applying varied perspectives and approaches--such as training and education, being a leader who “Walks the Talk” and treats each individual we come into contact with dignity, proper acceptance, and courtesy, will all pave the way for our Airmen to embrace diversity as the norm and seek a deeper understanding of the problems and promise inherent in diverse organizations.

Our philosophy of diversity goes beyond that of race, creed, ethnicity and gender. We look to promote the diversity of thinking that results from the differences in experiences, knowledge and background of all Airmen! Diversity of thinking will help us continue to encourage the (See **RESPECT** Page 7)

(RESPECT, continued from page 6)

creativity and innovation necessary for the ANG to maintain a competitive advantage in air and space dominance!

The ANG is committed to a tradition of mutual trust and respect, one that promotes a culture of confidence, dependability and reliability. This is vital in our mission to Fly, Fight, and Win...now and forever

### Flywheel Challenge:

Ask yourself: *"What did I do today to push on the flywheel?"*

- \* Do you foster mutual respect in promoting a culture of confidence, dependability and reliability?
- \* Do you treat Airmen with dignity and respect for their talents and the value they provide to our Air National Guard?
- \* Does your authentic leadership and mutual respect firmly develop strong bonds with Airmen?
- \* How do you foster a culture of mutual trust and respect?
- \* Do you promote a culture of confidence, dependability and reliability?
- \* Are you accountable in creating an environment that recognizes the valuable role of each Airman?



***Respect is the mutual and unbreakable bond that pillars our military strength and is the premise of public trust for the Air National Guard.***

***In order to lead, you must be trusted, to be trusted, you must be trustworthy. Your integrity can never be taken away.***

(BMT, continued from page 2)

"It will enhance the capabilities of these young men and women that we are sending into the Air Force," said Colonel Westermann. "The important thing is we know the current strategic environment that we're in, and we know the challenges these young men and women are going to face over the course of their career. We are going to better prepare them to meet those challenges of the future."

The physical facility additions, such as the Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training course at the Lackland Training Annex, are not the only changes to occur. Class time has been added, instructors have been re-trained and courses such as CPR training have been weaved into the 8.5 schedule.

"This is a long term investment that the Air Force is making," the group commander said. "It is incumbent upon us as an organization to validate that investment."

The expanded training comes at a time when the Air Force is looking to grow. As many as 4,000 more recruits are expected to pass through Lackland's gates for the fiscal year 2009, which would bring the yearly total to 39,000.

"The Air Force Recruiting Service foresees no prob-



USAF photo by Robbin Cresswell

11/5/2008 - Air Force Basic Military Training trainees from the 331st Training Squadron, Flight 077, wait in line for haircuts Nov. 5. They are among the first group of Air Force recruits to experience an additional 14 days of training as BMT expands from 6.5 to 8.5 weeks. The additional time will enhance and reinforce current war skills training.

lems at all in meeting the recruiting goal," said Colonel Westermann. "With the enhanced warrior skills, this is why young men and women want to join the military today. We are prepared to execute for that increase.

"We're ready to go," he added.



# 173rd Fighter Wing 2008 Outstanding Airmen of the Year



*SrA Danae Eskridge  
Airman of the Year  
Category I*



*SSgt Amy Heath  
Airman of the Year  
Category II*



*Mr. Rodney Jones  
Civilian of the Year  
Category IV*



*Capt Micah Lambert  
Officer of the Year  
Category V*



*MSgt Dale Doty  
First Sergeant  
of the Year*



*MSgt Mark McDaniel  
Chester McCarty Award  
General Support*



*MSgt George Mulleneix  
Chester McCarty Award  
Maintenance*



*SSgt James Schols  
Chester McCarty Award  
Operations*



*TSgt Jason Witts  
Chester McCarty Award  
Logistics*



*TSgt Kenneth Banks  
James Cunningham  
"Wingman" Award*

## *Not Pictured*

*MSgt Cody Pemberton  
Airman of the Year  
Category III*

*TSgt Janessa Charkins  
Honor Guard  
Member of the Year  
and  
Chester McCarty Award  
Information Management*



(TEAM, continued from page 2)

and the following 240th Civil Engineer Flight personnel

out of Buckley AFB, Colorado.:

- FET Commander- Col. Crader
- Executive Officer- Maj. Markowitz
- Operations Chief- Chief Master Sgt. Martin
- Project Management- Maj. Fontanetta, Capt. Bruner, Lt. Abarca, Senior Master Sgt. Loyle

Everyone excluding the commander has been assigned construction projects that they are responsible for from initial planning to construction completion. The commander is responsible for overseeing our entire operation and being a liaison between the FET and the Army command element. His job is similar to the Base Civil Engineer. He is also responsible for entertaining Distinguished Visitors, of which we have had more than our fair share in the last four months.

In many ways, we feel that we have the best jobs on the base. We fall under the Army for tactical control (TACON) but under the Air Force

for admin control (ADCON). We can be an independent liaison for the base, providing engineering support without being tasked with other duties. We get to work with everyone on base since everyone has a need for facilities and infrastructure. We have found that the Army is great to work with because they are used to austere living conditions and they are very appreciative of the facilities we provide. Anything is a step up from living in a tent.

One drawback is that since the Army is used to austere conditions, long range planning has not been as developed as we hoped. We are converting from an expeditionary base to a permanent base. In doing so, buildings were put in before basic infrastructure, such as water and sewer, were established. Now we are in the difficult process of trying to develop this infrastructure while working around existing buildings. Power and communications lines have been put in to provide lighting, AC, and computers, but we only drink bottled water and most of the toilets are portable units that must be pumped daily. There are a few wells on base and only part of the water is treated with ROWPU (mobile filtration) units to provide potable water for the Dining Facility and Hospital. The rest of the water is treated with chlorine and used for shower/ latrine facilities, but it is not suitable for drinking. This is typical at most FOBs.

One of the most rewarding

parts of our job is our daily interaction with the locals. We have two interpreters who are invaluable to our operation. Besides bridging the language barrier, they will discuss their culture and religion. They know the local construction methods and contractors. The contractors work hard considering their lack of modern tools. Building foundations are usually dug with shovels and pick axes and made of primarily brick and mortar. At times, concrete is placed by an assembly line of workers with large bowls. Tea breaks are standard practice. It's not uncommon for a company to bring a cook on site to make lunch for the entire work crew. Workers wages are usually \$4-\$5 a day.

Prior to a JET deployment, Airmen are required to attend Army Combat Skills Training (CST). CST is a one month training course to familiarize other services with the Army way of doing things. Courses included weapons qualifying, Combat Life Savers (CLS), HMMV training, convoy training, Army force structure, basic tactics, and a five day field deployment. The three Air Guard S-Teams all attended the same CST course at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. One of the benefits was that our class was all Civil Engineers preparing to deploy to various locations in Afghanistan and Iraq. This provided a great networking opportunity allowing us to get to know other engineers that would be in the same theaters.

Overall, this experience has been

great. The highlight has been working with the other members of the team. They are all motivated, dedicated, and well trained professionals. For a first deployment, this has been a great assignment.



# Air Guard Medics Reflect on Continuing Promise 2008

*By Naval Chief Mass Communication Specialist James G. Pinsky, Continuing Promise Public Affairs*

USS KEARSARGE – At Sea Nine Air National Guard medical technicians from across the United States, including an Oregon Guardsman, traded in their civilian creature comforts for the rigors of a four-month deployment aboard USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), beginning Aug. 6.

As their real work began in Nicaragua, the comforts of home seemed less and less important. “Nicaragua left the most lasting impression on me because the people needed the most help, but they also had the most grace and gratitude,” said Staff Sgt. Danae Eskridge, a medical technician assigned to 173rd Fighter Wing Medical Group at Kingsley Field, Ore.

“Being on my first ship was quite an experience,” said Senior Airman Alexandra Olson, a medical technician assigned to 148th Fighter Wing Medical Group in Duluth, Minn..

“The quarters were close, and there wasn’t much to do or places to go, but I think we all adjusted after a few days.”

Despite the differences, the Guardsmen said they stayed focused on the mission, providing humanitarian assistance.

The Guardsmen contributed to the CP medical mission in Nicaragua, and five other Caribbean islands, through a variety of medical care, including de-worming, pharmacy, patient flow, triage, bandage and wound care, and other basic medical care.

“Nicaragua really set the benchmark for how things would be for us on this mission,” said Eskridge. “The poverty where we were in Nicaragua was rampant, but people still showed up as well dressed as they could be. It was some of the saddest living



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist First Class David G. Crawford

Air Force Staff Sergeant Danae Eskridge and Hospital Corpsman Richard Uttley, currently assigned to the USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) medical department, carry a Nicaraguan woman who was complaining of chest and arm pains in to an examining room at Juan Comenius high school in Puerto Cabazes, Nicaragua, Aug. 13.

conditions I have ever seen, but at the same time they were some of the most gracious people we met on the trip.”

On the other end of the medical spectrum, the Guardsmen found Trinidad-Tobago’s people to be the easiest to relate to mostly because everyone there spoke English, but also because their health care needs seemed less dire.

In addition to Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago, the CP mission made scheduled visits to Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Guyana, as well as two liberty ports in Puerto Rico and Curacao.

The team also answered the call to provide disaster relief assistance to Haiti after it was devastated by Hurricane Ike and several other tropical storms.

Throughout the mission, the Guardsmen worked with a variety of medical professionals from the United States Public Health Service, PROJECT Hope, Operation SMILE, host country medical personnel, international military medical services from France, Netherlands, Canada and Brazil.

“All of the Air Force people I dealt with had great attitudes,” said

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Marta Weatherly. “People like Senior Airman Olson jumped right in with medical surgery screenings, and Tech. Sgt. Rankin was always helping us out medical or not” For some of the Guardsmen it was their first opportunity to gauge the differences between the Navy and the Air Force.

After getting to know each other and figuring out everyone’s strengths, the Air Force and Navy medical personnel soon combined to become one unified team.

“If you took the uniform off of them on this mission, you would have never known they came from a different service. They treated everyone and every task equally,” said Lt. Cmdr. Kathaleen Sikes, a medical augmentee from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Regardless of the service, all of the medical personnel aboard Kearsarge knew that the need for quality health care for the patients was universal.

But the Guardsmen admit they prefer the Air Force way of life to that of a Sailor. “Living on the ship was ridiculous compared to what I was used to in the Air Force,” said Eskridge. “On a ship there are no (See **MEDIC** Page 13)



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of Kingsley Field and detailed the primary mission of training fighter pilots.

“It is important for leadership to experience first-hand the level of professionalism and exacting standards this unit maintains in order to produce the best trained F-15C fighter pilots for the combat air force,” Miller said. “Our nation demands the best and that is exactly what we provide here at Kingsley.”

Blum responded by communicating his observations of the wing and its mission in a letter following his departure.

“I appreciate your hospitality but more importantly the mission that your Airmen execute everyday,” said Blum. “You command a professional group and have built a great team. Keep up the good work and continue to hold your students to a high, exacting standard. Our nation needs their best.”

During an informal dinner hosted by the 173rd

FW the evening of Dec. 10, Blum met local officials including Commissioners Al Switzer, John Elliot, and Bill Brown and the Klamath Falls Chief of Police Jim Hunter. Blum toasted Oregon National Guard senior leadership and the local officials saying that it is important to visit the states because we are a country of united but independent states.

“I appreciate being exposed to the

**Kingsley Chronicle**

***“Our nation demands the best and that is exactly what we provide here at Kingsley.”***

***-Col James C. Miller***

local area, its leadership, and the beauty of Klamath County,” Blum said later.

Blum transitioned from the

position of Chief, National Guard Bureau where he managed the formulation,

development and coordination of all

policies, programs and plans affecting more than half a million Army and Air National Guard members.

At U.S. Northern Command Blum’s broad mission is to monitor all land, sea and air approaches within the continental United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico and the surrounding water out to approximately 500 nautical miles.

Command officials also are in charge of responding to any threats that arise within the United States

and have prepared detailed plans for responding to situations that range from pandemic influenza to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear events.

When it comes to providing forces in response to incidents, the command has nearly 50 National Guard officers fully integrated within its operations, in addition to National Guard civil support teams located within every U.S. state and territory, including Oregon.



USAF photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shirar

Colonel James C. Miller gives Lt. General Steven Blum and Brig. General Dan O'Holleren a tour of the newly constructed David R. Kingsley Memorial during Blum's visit to Kingsley Field Dec. 10, 2008.



USAF photo by Master. Sgt. Jerry Bynum,

Lt. General Steven Blum shakes hands with Senior Airman Aaron Riley and talks with the members of the 173rd Aircrew Flight Equipment Shop during Blum's visit to Kingsley Field Dec. 10, 2008.

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days off. You learn to adapt though, and we did.”

Eskridge, like many people in the Air National Guard, live a full-time life away from their voluntary military service. The 24 year-old Oregonian is a full-time college student at Sacramento State University in the midst of a four-year nursing program.

“I joined the Air National Guard so I could pay for college, go to college and get the technical training I knew I needed to pursue the career field I was interested in,” said Eskridge.

Thanks to her time in the military Eskridge has a wealth of experience and wisdom that the average college student doesn’t.

“I’m prior service so I understand the benefits of serving in the military,” she said. “And missions like this are exactly why I serve; it’s an experience that can’t be duplicated anywhere else.”

Eskridge is a combat veteran who served in the Air Force at Camp Victory, Iraq in 2004 and then again in the Middle East in Qatar early in 2008.

Citing the Air Force value of service before self, Eskridge makes a point to always show her college friends back at Sacramento State a slide show of her travels.

“What I do and what I go through is such a life-changing experience,”

said Eskridge, “that I want to share it with people and try to get them to join because what I learn is something that can only come from service if not in the military then maybe in the Peace Corps or something where you’re giving humanitarian aid.”

Eskridge said her experiences have also made her more patriotic. “I’ve grown to love America a lot more since I joined the service because of what I’ve seen. I mean here we are fighting a war and we still find time to do this humanitarian mission, impressive.”

Olson echoes her sentiments. “I joined the Guard to pay for school at first,” she said. “But I became a lot more patriotic as I served – more emotionally attached to my country. I don’t know if I was just ignorant before, but I know I’m a totally different person now.”

While medical care was one aspect of the Airmen’s mission it wasn’t the only one. In August and September, Mother Nature lashed out at the population of Haiti with two tropical



Photo courtesy, U.S. Navy

Air Force Staff Sergeant Danae Eskridge gives a Nicaraguan girl medicine at Juan Comenius high school in Puerto Cabazes, Nicaragua, Aug. 13. Eskridge supported Continuing Promise 2008, an equal-partnership mission between the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Brazil, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana.

storms including two hurricanes.

Continuing Promise, with its nine Air National Guardsmen in tow, was at the tail end of its mission in Colombia when the call for help was heard.

Haiti’s mission centered more on direct humanitarian assistance by delivering hundreds of tons of food and water.

“We did a lot of working parties when we helped out in Haiti,” said Olson. “It was a lot of physical labor, and I didn’t have to go to the gym for those weeks we were in Haiti. But there’s absolutely no doubt in my mind that I am glad we went, that we were able to get there in time to help, and that I was a part of it.”

## Kingsley Quiz

**CAN YOU GUESS...**      *who this is?*

### Clues:

- I spent 11 years of military career in Avionics
- I am a Weber State Graduate
- Prior to 1989 I had attended 43 Motley Crue concerts
- I have had the same car for 23 years

*Answer on Page 15*





# 2008 Children's Christmas Party







# 173d Fighter Wing 2009 Goals

- Train the best F-15 pilots in the world
  - Train 28 Basic Course Equivalent F-15 pilots to meet the demands of the Combat Air Forces
  - Execute a 5000 flying hour program with zero mishaps
- Successfully deploy and execute the training mission at Gowen Field, Idaho during SENTRY DISPLACEMENT
- Develop a better method of communication with our Traditional Guardsmen
  - Develop quality training plans to ensure they are ready to execute their mission
  - All Airmen will be properly trained and equipped to perform their mission
- Energize the informal, as well as the formal performance feedback programs
  - Mentor those you supervise; learn from those who supervise you
  - Invest quality time in furthering the careers of your subordinates
- Improve the overall base fitness pass rate from 84% to 90%
  - Airmen will be physically, mentally and spiritually ready for deployment
- Team Kingsley is more than a logo. Take care of the mission, take care of your people
  - Embrace diversity; a team is more powerful than an assembly of individuals
  - Believe in diversity and enforce the zero tolerance policy to discrimination
- Support any and all State emergency response missions if called upon
  - Maintain full QRF requirements to include training, personnel and equipment



## Announcements



### **Craylene's Family Haircare**

Haircuts for Men, Women and Children  
Military Haircut \$8.00 - Regular Haircut \$10.00

**Open Mon. through Fri. 9-3  
UTA Sat 10-2  
Closed Down Mondays**

*Located in the Barber  
Shop next to the BX*

*If you have any questions please call 885-6370.*

### **Free Friday Night Movies!!!**



**Join us every Friday,  
7:00pm at the Kingsley  
theater for free movies**

*Volunteers are needed to keep this  
program going. Please contact the  
Public Affairs office at x5-6677 if you  
would like to volunteer or learn more  
about the Friday Night Movies.*

Movies subject to change or cancellation without notice.



ANSWERS TO KINGSLEY QUIZ on PAGE 5: Capt. Dean McHugh





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Editor, Kingsley Chronicle  
173 FW/PA

231 Wagner Street, Ste. 21  
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Telephone: (530) 885-6677

Fax : (530) 885-6311

DSN prefix: 830

E-mail: [jennifer.shirar@orklam.ang.af.mil](mailto:jennifer.shirar@orklam.ang.af.mil)

**Wing Commander:**

Col. James C. Miller

**Vice Wing Commander:**

Col. Richard W. Kelly

**Wing Public Affairs Officer:**

Capt. Lucas K. Ritter

**HQ ORANG Public Affairs Officer:**

Maj. Michael Braibish